

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002515
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 EB-08 JUSE-00 COME-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:PAP
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ
INTERIOR:TWOLKERSTORFER
EB/OT/STA:GWHITE
EB/IFD/EP:TSCHLENRER
JUSTICE:FBANNAN
NOAA:SPOWELL

-----082317 060847Z /13

R 052135Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, AS

SUBJECT:US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS: THORNS IN THE SIDE

REF: A. CANBERRA 8216
B. STATE 287091

1. ISSUES RAISED IN REFTEL A HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH
VARIOUS INTERESTED OFFICES AND AGENCIES. RESPONSES GIVEN
BELOW SHOULD BRING EMBASSY UP-TO-DATE AND MAY BE USED TO
RESPOND TO TIMMONS.

2. KANGAROO HIDES - SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS
OUTLINED IN REFTEL B WITH BALL ON GOA COURT. IF GOA IS
WILLING TO ACCEPT REEXAMINATION PROPOSAL MADE IN PARA. 4,
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REFTEL B, THERE SEEMS TO BE GOOD POSSIBILITY OF RESOLUTION
OF PROBLEM. EMBASSY SHOULD URGE GOA TO AUTHORIZE AUSTRALI-
AN EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO BEGIN PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS
WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO ESTABLISH MUTUALLY
UNDERSTOOD PROCEDURES FOR REEXAMINATION.

3. SPERM OIL TRANSIT THROUGH PANAMA CANAL- DEPARTMENT

WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM UNTIL RECEIPT REFTEL A.
NOAA OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL HAS INFORMED US THAT IT IS
AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN ORIGINS OF RUMOR. SAME OFFICE SAYS
THERE IS NO INTENTION TO STOP CARGOES TRANSITTING THE
PANAMA CANAL.

4. ANTI-TRUST INVESTIGATIONS OF "URANIUM CARTEL" - THE
GRAND JURY LOOKING INTO THIS QUESTION HAS ISSUED NO
REPORT TO DATE. DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE GRAND JURY
PROCESS WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHICH FIRMS ARE BEING
INVESTIGATED. THE GRAND JURY WILL END ITS SITTING IN
MAY. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER A NEW GRAND
JURY WILL BE IMPANELED. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN
INFORMAL CONTACT WITH GOA EMBASSY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE
IN DEVELOPING INFORMATION. STATE HAS ASKED JUSTICE THAT
IT BE KEPT INFORMED BEFOREHAND OF ANY PLANNED CONTACTS
WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE WITH
MEETING MENTIONED REF (A). IN RELATED ISSUE, THERE ARE
NOW IN PROCESS SEVERAL PRIVATE SUITS BETWEEN ELECTRIC
UTILITIES AND NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIERS CONCERNING
ALLEGED PRICE FIXING AND FAILURE TO DELIVER. INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THESE SUITS IS SKETCHY,
BUT WE WILL TRY TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOP-
MENTS THAT MAY AFFECT AUSTRALIA. CHRISTOPHER

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